

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00

AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 261056Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2167

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2620

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, UV, US

SUBJ: VOLTAN AMBASSADOR REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN
OBTAINING MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 211207

1. AS FAR AS UPPER VOLTA IS CONCERNED, THE BORDER
DISPUTE WILL NOT BE OFFICIALLY OVER UNTIL BORDER HAS
BEEN MARKED, EVEN IF IT MEANS MINOR ADJUSTMENTS TO
SATISFY MALI'S PRIDE. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN NORMALIZED
AND THAT THE BORDER HAS BEEN QUIET FOR MANY MONTHS.
AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON BORDER
CROSSINGS. VOLTANS GO TO MALI AND MALIANS GO TU UPPER
VOLTA EXACTLY AS THEY DID PRIOR TO THE INCIDENTS OF
DECEMBER 1974. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA TOLD THE MBASSADOR
RECENTLY THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF MALIAN CHILDREN WERE
SPENDING THE SUMMER WITH RELATIVES IN BOBO-DIOULASSO.
MINISTER OF INTERIOR SOME HAS TOLD US THAT ONLY REASON
UPPER VOLTA DID NOT ACCEDE TO MALI'S REQUEST FOR
REOPENING VOLTAN EMBASSY IN BAMAKO WAS LACK OF FUNDS
AND NECESSITY OF OPENING EMBASSY IN GABON WHERE LARGE
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NUMBER OF VOLTANS ARE WORKING ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW

RAILROAD.

2. WE MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA HAD EXISTED FOR MANY YEARS PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1974. THERE WAS NO BAN THEN ON SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO UPPER VOLTA AND MALI. INDEED, AS DEPARTMENT WELL KNOWS, BORDER DISPUTES ARE NOTHING NEW AMONG AFRICAN STATES AND WE SUSPECT THAT USG IS PRESENTLY SELLING OR EVEN GIVING ARMS TO AFRICAN STATES HAVING FAR MORE SERIOUS BORDER DISPUTES WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS. SINCE LEADERS OF BOTH COUNTRIES (MALIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA AND VOLTAN INTERIOR MINISTER SOME) HAVE BOTH STATED PUBLICLY THAT BORDER DISPUTE IS OVER (OUAGADOUGOU 2083, BAMAKO 2321) IT SEEMS TO US THAT USG WOULD BE ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED IN LIFTING BAN ON SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO UPPER VOLTA AND MALI. IF WE DO NOT, WE CAN EXPECT THAT FRANCE, WHICH EXHORTED US TO ESTABLISH BAN IN FIRST PLACE AND THEN MADE A MASSIVE SALE OF ARMS TO UPPER VOLTA, WOULD AGAIN END UP WITH A MOST PROFITABLE ARMS DEAL.
GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OUAGAD02620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760325-1366
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760817/aaaaanze.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 211207
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VOLTAN AMBASSADOR REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MILITARY EQUIPMENT
TAGS: MILI, UV, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006